Spilling out the Beans

Al Awlaki revealing his side of the story

I have had experiences with the US government at quite a young age that most of you would not have in a lifetime. I have seen the other face of America. Many of you might feel that this is strange to come from America, the beacon of freedom and liberty. I do not blame you because all what you are seeing is one face. The public face. You will not see the other face until they start perceiving you as a threat.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said to Waraqa: *Will they drive me out?* (I.e. would they do that?) Waraqa said: Yes, Never came a man with the like of what you have brought but met hostilities.

Now for some time for a light hearted experience: The FBI is putting out a lot of information about myself, some true, most lies. But they are blacking out some parts of the record. One of them is that I have been to Afghanistan in 1991. I traveled from JFK and back to JFK. The FBI is not interested in mentioning this part of my story.

- Put under close watch from early on.
- Supposedly close relation and had closed door meetings with two of the 9/11 hijackers.
- Crossing state lines and then let go?! They then said I vanished like air coming out of a balloon?!
- Passport fraud: Rescinded just one day before my arrival? The custom officials were quite baffled at the situation and didn't know what to say. I got an apology from one of them with a weird face on him. Actually I myself was shocked and asked them: Is that it? They said, yes sir, that's it. You are free to board!
- Spent extended periods of time in the UK and could have been arrested there, on request of the US government if they wanted to arrest me, but they didn't.

This story just doesn't add up. And then there is one more bit of my story that needs to be inserted here and which the FBI know very well about but nevertheless do not want to talk about:

- My visit in 1991 to Afghanistan.

So, here goes my side of the story:

When I finished high school in Yemen I was accepted on a scholarship to study in the US. But there were two problems: I was an American citizen and these scholarships are only for foreign students and number two the scholarship was to study agriculture and I wanted to study Engineering. My father at the time was a Minister of Agriculture and the Americans were happy to make some exceptions for him.

The US government through its programs of scholarships for foreign students has created for itself a pool of cadres around the world. From among these are leaders in every field, heads of state, politicians, businessmen, scientists, etc. They have one thing in common: They were all students in American Universities. The US government connects with some of these students while they are in the US directly and connects with some of them indirectly while it may not connect with some of them at all. Some end up working with the CIA or other intelligence agencies. These programs have helped the US bolster its strength worldwide and spread out its control. The way the US is managing an empire without calling it an empire is one of the great innovations of our time.

The plans to have me as one of the many thousand men and women around the world who have their loyalty to the US did not go through. I wasn't suitable for that role anymore. I was a fundamentalist now!

It is a unique and unprecedented method of choosing the indirect over the direct, the covert over the overt and implicit over the explicit. And that is what allowed the US to practice its policy of … denial and fool the world for so long.

Coming from a privileged family in Yemen, son of a father who was a high government official and a former US student himself, being a student at a private school were all of the sons of influential people went to, and graduating with scores among the top twenty in the country, has probably made me of some interest to my sponsors. I was feeling the flirting of the Office of International Students at my university. They were being very helpful and wanted to extend the relationship with me beyond business to a personal level. Even though I was not fully practicing back then but I had an extreme dislike to the US government and was very wary of anything concerning intelligence services or secret orders. Thus, I was cold when it came to my relationship with the Office of International Students (which in my belief is a front for recruitment of international students for the government and is also a front from spying on them and reporting on them to the authorities). I also received an invitation to join the Rotary Club which I turned down.

The invasion of Kuwait took place followed by the Gulf war. That is when I started taking my religion more seriously and I took the step of traveling to Afghanistan to fight. I spent a winter there and returned with the intention of finishing up in the US and leaving to Afghanistan for good. My plan was to travel back in summer, however, Kabul was opened by the mujahedeen and I saw that the war was over and ended up staying in the US.

When I came back I perceived a complete shift in the behavior of the Office of International Students towards me. Shortly after that my scholarship was terminated. I enquired for the reason behind such a drastic step. The answer I got was that my grades were dipping too low. It is true that my focus has now shifted away from school and my grades suffered because of my travel to Afghanistan and my role as head of the Muslim Student Association on campus and I ended up missing a large proportion of classes on campus, but why talk about rules now when we have been breaking them all along from the start of my scholarship. I wasn't supposed to be awarded this scholarship from the beginning. However, word came to me from a connection at the US Embassy in Sana'a, that they have been receiving reports about my Islamic activities on campus and the fact that I have traveled to Afghanistan and this was the single reason for the termination of my scholarship. That is something that the Office of International Students never mentioned or even eluded too.

Anyways, the plans to have me as one of the many thousand men and women around the world who have their loyalty to the US did not go through. I wasn't suitable for that role anymore. I was a fundamentalist now! Plus, I ended up staying in the US rather than going back to Yemen.

After graduation I became an Imam in Denver for a year. Then I moved on to San Diego, California were important chapters in this story unfolded.

The main mosque in San Diego was Abu Bakr masjid or San Diego Islamic Center. However, a group of students from Saudi and the Gulf states were not happy with how things were run at the mosque. They perceived it as too liberal so they established a new mosque, Masjid al Ribat. I was invited to be its Imam. Even though I only moved in years after the mosque was built but I was the first full time Imam at the mosque. The community at the mosque was very close nit which would have made it extremely difficult for the government to infiltrate. It would have been easier for the Saudi's or some other Arab states to gain access to the private running of the mosque than it would have been for the US government. There was nothing happening at the mosque that would fall under the loose category of what we today refer to as terrorism but nevertheless, it is my firm belief that the government, for some reason, was actively trying to plant moles inside the mosque. There were some people who would just show up from nowhere who would try to mingle and fit in the mosque's community in suspicious ways. When things do not work out well with them they just disappear, only for someone else to take their place. These people would deal with me in particularly peculiar means that makes me wonder if they were really being send over by the government. Couldn't they afford to send anyone better?

So a more aggressive means was employed. In 1996 while waiting at a traffic light in my minivan a middle aged woman knocked on the window of the passenger seat. By the time I rolled down the window and before even myself or the woman uttering a word I was surrounded by police officers who had me come out of my vehicle only to be handcuffed. I was accused of soliciting a prostitute and then released. They made it a point to make me know in no uncertain terms that the woman was an undercover cop. I didn't know what to make of the incident. However a few days later came the answer. I was visited by two men who introduced themselves as officials with the US government (they did not specify which government organization they belonged to) and that they are interested in my cooperation with them. When I asked what cooperation did they expect, they responded by saying that they are interested in having me liaise with them concerning the Muslim community of San Diego. I was greatly irritated by such an offer and made it clear to them that they should never expect such cooperation from myself. I never heard back from them again until in 1998 when I was approached by a woman, this time from my window and again I was surrounded by police officers who this time had go to court. This time I was told that this is a sting operation and you would not be able to get out of it.

I decided that I have had enough and it is time to leave the US for good. But I was so entangled in life in the US, It took me three years and September 11 to finally unwind myself from this web and leave the United States. But I did take one step very soon after what happened in San Diego. I left San Diego for Washington. I believed that if the issue in San Diego was with local government I should be safe from it if I move somewhere else. September 11 was a Tuesday. By Thursday the FBI were knocking on my door. The questions revolved around the attacks. They visited me again but this time they were asking for cooperation which I made it clear that they shouldn't expect and the third meeting which was the last I had my lawyer attend the meeting.

This is what I know about the US from experience and you want to tell me to vote for these people?!

For those who believe Obama is the savior. Do you think he can rein in the FBI, CIA and the other alphabet soup of intelligence agencies that have been carrying on with their behind the scenes plots since the day of their inception while presidents come and go? Do you really believe he can reform the US foreign policy that has been consistent on issues that concern us for decades?

If Obama tries to go against the tide, the tide will engulf him. JFK was killed on American soil by an American citizen.

So am I justified in my dislike of America? I believe if you ask Dr Ali Tamimi, Dr Rafil Dhafir, Imam Jamil al Amin, Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, the Palestinian activists, and Humaidan al Turki they would all express similar sentiment. Probably not, because they are incarcerated in the lion's den. However for me, Allah has blessed me with freedom so I can expose this satanic government for what it is.